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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
THE WORK OF THE ORGANIZATION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-third year

Identical letters dated 26 October 1998 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chairman of the Group of the Islamic States, I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference held at the United Nations Headquarters, New York, on 1 October 1998 (see annex I), and the memorandum presented to the Meeting on the same day by the true representatives of the Kashmiri people (see annex II).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly have the text of the Declaration of the Annual Coordination Meeting and the memorandum of the true representatives of the Kashmiri people circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 10, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nassir Abdulaziz AL-NASSER
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations
Chairman of the Group of the Islamic States

Annex I

Declaration on Jammu and Kashmir adopted by the Annual Coordination Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, held at United Nations Headquarters on 1 October 1998

The OIC Annual Coordination Meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs held at the United Nations in New York on (1 October 1998).

Recalling all OIC resolutions as well as Security Council resolutions pertaining to Jammu and Kashmir;

Seriously concerned over the intensification of repression and continued violation of the human rights of Kashmiri people including the denial of their inalienable right to self-determination;

Deeply concerned over the tensions along the Line of Control in Kashmir which has now become a nuclear flashpoint.

Noting the Memorandum submitted by the True Representatives of the Kashmiri people;

Further noting the report of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir;

1- Reaffirms all OIC Summit and Ministerial resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

2- Calls for a peaceful settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir issue in accordance with relevant UN resolutions.

3- Urges the international community to take effective steps for safeguarding the human rights of the Kashmiri people including their right to self-determination and stresses the importance of sustained international engagement to facilitate a just and peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute.

4- Supports the ongoing efforts of the Government of Pakistan to seek a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute through all possible means including substantive bilateral talks with India.

5- Decides that the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir should continue to meet during sessions of the UN General Assembly and the UN Commission on Human Rights as well as at the OIC Ministerial meetings.

Annex II

Memorandum presented by the true representatives of the Kashmiri people to the ministerial meeting of the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir, New York, 28 September 1998

The Kashmiri representatives:

Recalling the relevant resolutions of the United Nations Security Council upholding the right of self-determination of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

Noting that the year 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the passing of the UN resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir which still remain unimplemented due to India's intransigence and failure to abide by its international obligations in violation of the UN Charter.

Noting also that the year 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the UN General Assembly on 10 December 1948;

Condemning the gross and systematic violations of the human rights of Kashmiri people by Indian forces;

Expressing deep alarm at the continuing deterioration of the security situation in the region as a result of the nuclearisation of South Asia by India and the Indian threat of use of nuclear weapons to settle the Jammu and Kashmir dispute;

Reaffirming the right of the Kashmiri people to self-determination;

Demand that the Government of India honour and redeem its pledges with Kashmiri people in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council resolutions;

Condemn the serious crimes and inhuman atrocities of genocide, massacre, extrajudicial killings, reprisal killings, arbitrary detention, torture, use of rape as an instrument of suppression, burning of houses, villages and townships, and destruction and desecration of holy places, committed by the Indian Government, through its military and paramilitary personnel, renegades and mercenaries in Jammu and Kashmir during the last nine years;

Recall with grief and sorrow that over 60,000 innocent Kashmiri men, women and children have embraced martyrdom and thousands have been incarcerated, tortured, raped and maimed by Indian security forces and their hired renegades and mercenaries in Jammu and Kashmir;

Affirm that despite the deployment of nearly 700,000 Indian troops in Jammu and Kashmir, massive repression of unarmed civilians, including women and children, and destruction of the economic means for productive employment, the Indian Government has failed to crush the will of the people of Jammu and Kashmir;

Reaffirm their total rejection of the efforts by India to institute the so-called "political process" and farcical elections in occupied Jammu and Kashmir the sole purpose of which is to deny the Kashmiri people their right of self-determination;

Recall that the Security Council has clearly enunciated that, on the basis of the agreement concluded between India and Pakistan, "the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir will be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations";

Also recall that the United Nations Security Council had declared that the creation of a Constituent Assembly or holding of any elections in Jammu and Kashmir by the Indian Government would not be a substitute for a fair and impartial plebiscite mandated by the Security Council to determine the will of the people of Kashmir;

Express deep concern at the induction of additional troops and deployment of an elaborate apparatus by India to terrorize and coerce the people of Jammu and Kashmir into submission;

Express alarm over the intensified campaign of repression, intimidation and persecution launched against the leaders of All Parties Hurriyet Conference to quell their opposition to the imposed elections and fraudulent political process.

Condemn the use by India of renegades and mercenaries to harass, persecute and intimidate the people of Kashmir;

Express serious concern at the alarming increase in the number of unprovoked violations of the Line of Control (LOC) by the Indian armed forces which have become a regular feature along the LOC;

Also express deep alarm over the cross-LOC acts of terrorism being sponsored by the Indian government and its agents in Azad Jammu and Kashmir which have resulted in the killing of a high number of innocent civilians;

Resolve that the people of Jammu and Kashmir shall continue the just and legitimate struggle for their freedom and the realization of their right of self-determination;

Welcome the call by the international community to Pakistan and India to urgently address the root cause of the tensions and hostilities in the region through the just settlement of the Jammu and Kashmir dispute.

Endorse and support the efforts of the Government of Pakistan to find a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue by all available means;

Call on the OIC Contact Group on Jammu and Kashmir to:

a. Impress upon the Indian government to end its campaign of repression and

immediately release all Kashmiri detainees;

b. Further impress upon the Indian Government to desist from exacerbating tension in Jammu and Kashmir and between India and Pakistan by staging and imposing a farcical political process and to once again remind the Indian Government that in Resolutions 91(1951) and 122 (1957), the UN Security Council unambiguously affirmed that "any action that (the Indian Government) may have taken, or might attempt to take to determine the future shape and affiliation (of Jammu and Kashmir) would not constitute a disposition of the Stat".

c. Request the Organization of the Islamic Conference to renew to the Government of India its offer of sending its fact finding and good offices missions to Jammu and Kashmir.

d. Urge the United Nations to hold a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir, without further delay, in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions.

e. Request the UN Secretary General to initiate a process of mediation to pave the way for the holding of a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir as laid down by the United Nations Security Council.

f. Urge the United Nations Security Council to ask India to withdraw its army of occupation from Jammu and Kashmir and honour its legal obligations to the Kashmiri people in accordance with the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

g. To request the OIC Secretary General to appoint a Special Representative on Jammu and Kashmir.

h. Further urge the international community to put pressure on India to give full access to international human rights organizations to visit Jammu and Kashmir and to cease forthwith the massive human rights violations of the Kashmiri people.

i. Encourage the Government of Pakistan to continue its efforts for a peaceful solution of the Kashmiri issue keeping in view the sentiments of the Kashmiri people, through all possible means, including a substantive and meaningful dialogue with India.

Appeal to all peace loving people and nations of the world to help and support the people of Jammu and Kashmir in their struggle for the realization of their right to self-determination promised to them under the UN Security Council resolutions.